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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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DITCHING WITH DYNAMITE.

Asst. Sanitary Engineer H. N. Old reports to malarial field headquarters of the Public Health Service a demonstration of cheap and rapid ditching with dynamite, whereby a 20-acre mosquito-breeding swamp was converted into valuable pasture land, near Millen, Ga., on February 17, 1921, by the Central of Georgia Railway and a representative of a manufacturer of explosives.

The mucky soil along the proposed line of ditch was almost completely under water. Stumps of green sweet gum, black gum, and pine, up to 2½ feet in diameter, stood about 6 to 8 feet apart.

Owing to the presence of large roots the entire 1,500 feet of ditch was not blown at one time, but in ten sections, with a resulting economy in the size of charge. One stick of 50 per cent nitroglycerine dynamite was used in each hole. The holes were 24 inches deep, and in a straight line, with a spacing of 10 to 16 inches, averaging 12. At times extra holes were placed to blow stumps clear of the ditch banks. A No. 3 blasting machine was used as detonator, and No. 6 electric blasting caps as primers. The immersion of some of the dynamite in water for as long as four hours between loading and firing was not apparently detrimental to the dynamite.

Within 30 minutes after the last shot there was a freely running stream in the bed. The resulting ditch averaged 7½ feet at the top, 2½ at the bottom, and 3½ deep. Approximately 970 cubic yards of material were removed, or 0.65 cubic yard per linear foot. No hand trimming of the sides was found necessary, as is often the case.

The total cost, including 1,000 pounds of dynamite at 25.5 cents, 44 man-hours labor at 20 cents, and $6.20 for incidentals, amounted to $270. The unit cost was 27.8 cents per cubic yard, or 18 cents per linear foot. It is estimated that the blowing of stumps cost 25 per cent of the total. Under similar conditions, hand ditching would be extremely difficult, and a ditch of the same size would probably cost 40 to 50 cents per linear foot.

The landowners intend to convert this formerly waste area into pasture land.

NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK.

Seventh Annual Clean-Up Campaign to be Observed April 3-9, 1921.

On March 2, 1921, Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, addressed a letter to Surg. Gen. Cumming,